

Commissioner of Patents
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Group III. Claim 20, drawn to method of preventing glare by covering the sink classified in class 156, subclass 60.

In response, the Applicant provisionally elects Claims 8-19 of Group II and authorizes the cancellation of claims 1-7 and 20, with traverse.

Applicant respectfully submits that the similarities between the claimed inventions are such that searching for prior art in relation to the entire application would not be a serious burden on the Examiner. MPEP §803. Moreover, the Examiner is reminded that if this restriction requirement is maintained, it will have the effect of an admission on behalf of the Patent Office that (1) the Group I claims are patentable over the disclosure of the inventions of Groups II and III; (2) the Group II claims are patentable over the disclosure of the inventions of Groups I and III; and (3) the Group III claims are patentable over the disclosure of the inventions of Groups I and II. These positions are necessary for entry of the restriction requirement by the Patent Office and may be relied upon by Applicants during examination of this and any divisional or continuation application. MPEP §§ 802.01; 802.02; 803; 803.01; 806; 806.04(h); 806.05(f). Accordingly, Applicant respectfully submits that the restriction requirement should be withdrawn because the similarities of the claimed invention are such that the burden on the Examiner to search the prior art for the entire application is minimal. MPEP §803.

In the event the Examiner determines to continue the restriction requirement, the Applicant requests that the Examiner provide the reasoning that the claims for Group II and Group III are distinct. The March 21, 2005 Office Action does not provide any reasoning in this regard.

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In the event Applicant has inadvertently overlooked the need to petition for an extension of time or to pay an additional fee, Applicant conditionally petitions therefor, and authorize any fee deficiency to be charged to deposit account 09-0007. When doing so, please reference the above-listed docket number.

Respectfully submitted,

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